

## C L A I M S

1. A shredded tobacco supply apparatus of a  
cigarette manufacturing machine, said supply apparatus  
comprising a tobacco feeder, said tobacco feeder including  
5 a reservoir stored with shredded tobacco,  
an ascending conveyor capable of receiving the  
shredded tobacco from said reservoir and transferring the  
shredded tobacco upward,

10 a deposition chute capable of receiving the shredded  
tobacco from said ascending conveyor and depositing the  
received shredded tobacco,

a feed roller unit of a constant-rate supply type for  
delivering the shredded tobacco from said deposition chute,

15 acceleration means for accelerating the shredded  
tobacco delivered from said feed roller unit without using  
pneumatic pressure, and

20 pneumatic transportation means for transporting the  
shredded tobacco accelerated by means of said acceleration  
means, along with an air current, toward a tobacco band of  
said cigarette manufacturing machine,

said pneumatic transportation means including a  
chimney for guiding the shredded tobacco and the air  
current toward the tobacco band, the chimney inclining at  
an angle to the traveling direction of the tobacco band.

25 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, which further  
comprises a bottom conveyor forming a bottom wall of said  
reservoir and capable of transferring the shredded tobacco  
from said reservoir toward said ascending conveyor.

30 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the  
apparatus comprises a plurality of said tobacco feeders,  
the respective chimneys of said tobacco feeders being  
arranged adjacent to one another in the traveling direction  
of the tobacco band.

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4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
pneumatic transportation means includes a jet diffuser for  
jetting out an air current toward the chimney, the jet  
diffuser being capable of jetting out the air current at an  
5 angle of inclination equal to the angle of inclination of  
the chimney.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said  
acceleration means includes an acceleration roller located  
for rotation between said feed roller unit and the jet  
10 diffuser, the acceleration roller being capable of  
mechanically accelerating the shredded tobacco by rotating.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
pneumatic transportation means circulates the air current.

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